

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN



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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
(THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE)

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GEO. NOYES, Editor and Publisher.

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NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

1. If any person orders his paper discontinued, he will not be liable to pay for it, if he has paid in full.

2. The courts have decided that refusing to take news and advertising is a prima facie evidence of bad faith.

3. The PloUGHMAN is 30 cents a year.

Editorial.

IN SEARCH OF A BRITTANY.

Scarcely had the sale of the Brittany here over, when the 4th inst., we were again called for a Brittany or a Britisher before. But it was too late. People who knew of the sale and neglected to attend lost an opportunity, which will not occur again soon, of getting a bargain such as they had no right, after the sale, to expect, and are now sorry that they did not avail themselves of the opportunity so freely offered. But the owner did his best to accommodate them. He wrote to all who got the choice bits of the herd to know at what price they would sell. It was all vain. Not one of them would look at a hundred per cent. advance on the price he paid, and we were not surprised, for the cattle were worth it, and we could find them satisfied.

But it is now, when the cattle are sold off, "Eugenie" at \$67.50, but without knowing anything of the price he had drawn, sold, without thought, to a gentleman who bought a yearling bull. The latter was applied to know what he would take for "Eugenie," but he said his farmer was so astonished at the quantity and the quality of milk such a little thing gave, that he would not sell her at any price. The fact is, she was an extraordinary cow, and had not been dry since she was imported in 1868, except for about three weeks before calving this winter. It was impossible to dry her off, by any known methods, feeding on hay, straw, or dry grass, for a week at a day. As

she would continue to give four or five quarts a day clear up to the time of calving every winter. And yet, when in good condition she was a perfect beauty.

Another who purchased "Celeste" and "Corinne," the former at \$100, and the latter, coming three years old and to come in July, \$110, said his wife had taken such a fancy to them that they were not for sale, and to his wife, it was unquestionable a lady of taste, for the cattle were offered \$200 apiece for the two, and they would have been quickly sold at that. They were both perfect beauties, when in fair condition. "Celeste" being, without any exception, the prettiest cow in Massachusetts. They would undoubtedly bring three hundred dollars apiece, and they are worth that. "Corinne" is a yearling heifer, with a calf only four hours old. He bid her at \$165. Parties were anxious to buy her and he was offered \$200, but it was of no use. She was not for sale. Then resort was had to Mr. William Knowton, of Upton, who bought a cow that was imported, to see if he would sell her. His reply was that she was "the best cow of her index," that he never had seen, and because of this he would not sell her at any price. Then the Massachusetts Agricultural College, to which a heifer was sent two years ago, the present of Mr. Knowton, was applied to, but she was not for sale at any price.

And so they all say. Within four days of the sale the herd would have brought about one hundred per cent. advance, a highly satisfactory state of things for the seller to contemplate. But there was reason enough for it. The fact is that the best and most useful cattle that we ever saw for the special purpose for which they were designed, and the most beautiful creatures that we ever saw. They were imported solely because of their wonderful and incomparable beauty, with no reference to the utility of which less was known. The farmer that the writer sent them did not even dare to speak of them as they really deserved. People would have inferred that he was praising his own sake for the sake of enhancing the price. Half the truth could not have been told without exciting such a criticism of his motives. But having no longer any cause for any such hesitation, he can say, after having seen the best cows in this country and the best in all parts of Europe, that is to say in the world so beautiful, so symmetrical, or so perfectly proportioned as two or three adapted to the female cow as the little Aylbury or the Black Cavy.

PLANTS THAT ANIMALS EAT.

Some garrulous animals will eat many plants that others do not appear to relish. Linnaeus, the distinguished botanist, by offering fresh plants of the ordinary kinds eaten by animals, found this horses ate 26 species, and refused 211; harnessed 216, and refused 213. Sheep ate 387 and refused only 141. If your pastures where dairy cows have grazed are overgrown with briars, the indigo plant, fern, sumac and other nuisances, turn sheep and they will eat them. They are great cleaners up an old pasture. Some like to keep a few sheep in along with the cows, and it is not a very bad plan.

FRUIT RAISING IN VERMONT.

Dr. W. H. Hoskin, in his valuable paper upon this subject before the State Board of Agriculture of that State gave the following as the list of apples best adapted for general cultivation, embracing the hardier sorts, though without claiming the list to be complete.

Summer Apples—Red Astrachan, Peach Aster, Yellow Supreme, Warminster, Teufel's White, and Williams Favorite.

Fall Apples—Duchess of Oldenburg, St. Lawrence, Faneuse, Clyde Beauty.

Winter Apples—Yellow Bellflower, Tom-man's Sweet, Blue Pearmain, Red Canada, Pomme Grisey, Westfield Snock No. Farther, Northern Spy, Ben Davis, Riloton, Pippin.

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

We have received the first annual Report of the Vermont State Board of Agriculture, Prof. W. P. Collier, Secretary.

This is a pretty volume of 734 pages, very few of which are occupied by any but first class material. It is worthy of a careful study and an extended notice which we shall be able to give it at an early day. Though a trifle coarser than some of the others, she was very beautiful and will not fail to give her owner perfect satisfaction.

Since the sale was over scarcely a mail

Correspondence.

THE PICKEREL.

Editor Massachusetts PloUGHMAN:

Away up in this wooden country of Vermont we don't pretend to know much about your Massachusetts pickerel, but we are going to sit still and allow your correspondent, Mr. Cliff, to go on with such a general tirade of abuse against the poor fish, without attempting a reply to some points in his article in the PloUGHMAN of March 13th.

He does not agree with us in regard to the fish, a pickerel, and we have several good reasons to present for the "fairs," and their owners should not be tolerated in the State; unless we wish to bring in an exhibition incomplete and impure.

—Granite State Journal.

Editor JUSTUS VON LIEBIG:

It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Prof. Justus von Liebig, at Munich in Bavaria, on Friday the 18th inst. We have always looked upon him with a sort of veneration as the father of what may be called modern scientific agriculture. He has done more than any other man to advance the science of agriculture, and to him on his death bed we have given the option of being buried in the soil of his native land.

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